Changes in the direction of economic reforms

†1652. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the poverty during almost ten years of economic reforms as per latest survey conducted by National Sample Survey and whether it is also a fact that there has been no mention-worthy increase in the agricultural monsoons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of people below poverty line has increased despite an increase in the national income during this period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the gap between village and city has also increased during this period; and

(d) if so, whether Government will bring in some changes in the position and direction of economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The latest estimate of poverty in the country is available for the year 1993-94. This is based on the large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its 50th Round. The earlier estimate of poverty was made from the large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its 43rd Round in 1987-88. As such, it is not possible to ascertain change in the incidence of poverty during the last ten years. However, comparing two latest estimates of consumer expenditure data obtained for the years 1987-88 (NSS 43rd Round) and 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round), it is observed that the poverty ratio in the country declined from 38.86% in 1987-88 to 35.97% in 1993-94. The incidence of poverty is viewed as the inability to attain a minimum consumption level, expressed in terms of poverty line. Actual rainfall as percentage of normal rainfall for the country as a whole was between 100% to 106% between 1993 to 1998. It was 91% in 1991, 93% in 1992 and 96% in 1999.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) As per the large sample surveys of the household consumption expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the *per capita* consumption expenditure in urban areas has been higher than in rural areas by an almost constant 60% in 1987-88 and 1993-94.

Transfer of funds from Non-lapsable Central Pool

1653. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASHREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken to transfer funds from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources to the beneficiary State as 100 per cent grants as requested by Government of Assam instead of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan as at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): A decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Non utilisation of plan budget on NER by Ministries/Departments

1654. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whethr it is a fact that some Ministries/Departments are not spending stipulated 10 percent of their plan budget on North-East and are also not transferring the unspent balance to the non-lapsable central pool of resources, although they are required to do so;

(b) if so, which are those Departments and Ministries;

(c) whether any action will be taken against the defaulting departments; and

(d) what is the amount that have not been transferred to the nonlapsable central pool resources during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Ministry/Department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE